(c) the steps taken to increase the yield per hectare and production of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To increase the yield per hectare and production of natural rubber, Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing a number of Plan schemes which aim at bringing more area under new rubber plantation, replanting of old and uneconomic rubber trees with high yielding clones, encouraging adoption of technology such as discriminatory fertiliser recommendation, disease control measures, soil and moisture conservation measures, rainguarding of rubber trees, use of stimulants with proper exploitation systems etc.

WTO Negotiations

1192. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) how far India's efforts at the World Trade Organisation negotiations have been successful, so far, in protecting interests of the Indian farmers in the international market against the subsidies provided by the developed nations to the detriment of farmers of the developing countries;

(b) whether any collective efforts have been made by the developing countries to protect interests of their farmers under the WTO regime and if so, with what results so far; and

(c) the steps being further taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (c) In the on-going negotiations on the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture, India has made concerted efforts with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 alliance on agriculture and the G-33 alliance on Special Products, in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed framework on agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible end date for elimination of their export subsidies, and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with

the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture* agreed to by consensus by all developed and developing country Members in the meeting of the General Council of the WTO on 1st August, 2004 duly addresses India's interests and concerns. The negotiations are scheduled to conclude by December 2005.

Suicide by tobacco farmers

† 1193. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of tobacco growing farmers committed suicide due to damage of crops and unfavourable weather;

(b) the steps being taken by Government for the livelihood of such farmers; and

(c) whether Government have any special plan to encourage the export of tobacco and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Action plan prepared to boost export of tobacco envisages:

(i) reorientation of production of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco to meet changing international demands, enhancement of quality and productivity levels, control of pesticide residues etc; and

(ii) inviting trade delegations from important markets, generic advertisements and market surveys and particpation in international tobacco fairs and exhibitions.

Restoration work of Humayun's Tomb

1194. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that medallion (marble inlay work) on the facade of the Humayun's tomb fell off recently, as ASI had not carried out restoration work in this complex for nearly two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for this state of neglect especially when it is a World Heritage Site; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.